

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130291

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE INFO PARIS, EC BRUSSELS, GENEVA,
NATO FROM STRASBOURG ON JUNE 29, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

UNCLAS STRASBOURG 0105

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SNAR, COE, NATO

SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE ON DRUG ABUSE

REF: STATE 121729

SUMMARY - 1. ON JUNE 29 EMBASSY PARIS DRUG COORDINATOR CUSTER
CALLED ON HEAD OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION HANS
PFEFFERMANN WHO DESCRIBED COUNCIL PROGRAM ON DRUG ABUSE
RECENTLY

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS. CUSTER BRIEFED PFEFFERMANN
ON PROPOSED CCMS ACTIVITY IN FIELD.- END SUMMARY.

2. PFEFFERMANN STATED THAT COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS, AFTER
EXTENDED CONSIDERATION, HAD FINALLY APPROVED COUNCIL' S ENTRY
INTO DRUG ABUSE FIELD. DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN AT URGING OF WHO,
WHICH ITSELF LACKED FUNDS FOR MANY DRUG ABUSE RELATED ACTIVITIES,
AND SAW COUNCIL AS SUITABLE FORUM.

3. COUNCIL S FIRST STEP WILL BE MEETING NOVEMBER 13 OF SENIOR
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PAGE 02 STATE 130291

OFFICIALS FROM 17 MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. COMPOSITION OF EACH COUNTRY'S DELEGATION WILL BE LEFT TO ITS GOVERNMENT, EACH CHOOSING SENIOR POLICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION OR OTHER OFFICIALS DEPENDING ON WHAT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM IT FEELS MOST IMPORTANT.

4. NOVEMBER MEETING WILL REVIEW CURRENT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DRUG ABUSE FIELD AND DECIDE ON AREAS FOR COUNCIL ACTIVITY. RESULTS OF MEETING CAN NOT BE PREDICATED WITH CERTAINTY, BUT PFEFFERMANN SAID IT WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT IN ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF EUROPEAN DRUG INFORMATION WITHIN COUNCIL. PFEFFERMANN NOTED THAT COUNCIL POSSESSED ESTABLISHED NETWORK WITHIN AND BETWEEN EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF JUSTICE, PUBLIC HEALTH, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION. THIS NETWORK WOULD BE PUT AT DISPOSAL OF DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM. HE NOTED AS AN EXAMPLE COUNCIL'S WORK ON HARMONIZATION OF EUROPEAN LEGISLATION, WHICH COULD BE EXTENDED TO DRUG ABUSE AREA.

5. CUSTER NOTED GREAT US GOVERNMENT INTEREST IN WHOLE QUESTION OF DRUG ABUSE, STATED THAT HE WAS SURE USG WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY COUNCIL REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING ITS ACTIVITIES. HE ASKED WHETHER ANY CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO INVITING US OBSERVER DELEGATION TO COUNCIL MEETING, NOTING THAT WE WOULD LIKELY BE INTERESTED. PFEFFERMANN SAID THAT WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE INVITED. HE AGREED TO RAISE QUESTION OF INVITING USG OBSERVERS.

6. CUSTER RECALLED VISIT OF DR. NORMAN REYNOLDS OF HEW TO THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY, AND INFORMED PFEFFERMANN OF USG PROPOSAL FOR CCMS ORGANIZED CONFERENCE ON EPIDEMIOLOGY, SUMMARIZING CONTENTS OF REFTEL. CUSTER NOTED THAT COUNCIL AND CCMS ACTIVITIES SEEMED COMPLEMENTARY, AND WOULD BOTH PROFIT FROM EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS.

7. PFEFFERMANN STATED THAT COUNCIL WOULD BE HAPPY TO ATTEND CCMS CONFERENCE IF INVITED, BUT NOTED SEVERE BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS WITHIN COUNCIL ON ATTENDANCE AT THESE SORT OF MEETINGS.

8. COMMENT - IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING AND US PROPOSED CCMS EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CONFERENCE COULD OVERLAP AT LEAST IN PART. BOTH ACTIVITIES WOULD PROFIT FROM COORDINATION BETWEEN TWO ORGANIZATIONS. WOODS
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PAGE 03 STATE 130291

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